



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WALTER WINCHELL

PART # 8 OF 13

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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TO : Mr. D. M. Ladd
FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont
SUBJECT: WALTER WINCHELL BROADCAST
JANUARY 13, 1952

DATE: January 14, 1952

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/10/84 BY SP8 BTJ/bct

Walter Winchell in his broadcast on Sunday evening, January 13, 1952, included the following items of possible interest to the Bureau:

WINCHELL:

New York City: Federal Judge Sylvester Ryan is expected to send the Frank Costello case to the jury on Tuesday.

Federal Court House, New York: The lawyer for Frank Costello may pull a big surprise tomorrow. Lawyer George Wolff may call a number of newspaper men who covered the Senate Crime Committee hearings.

COMMENT:

None. This is for your information.

WINCHELL:

San Francisco: The next big demonstration by Communists in San Francisco will take place on January 16. They will go from house to house passing out leaflets protesting the arrest of Red leaders by the FBI.

COMMENT:

Information has been received from time to time from San Francisco and Los Angeles that the Communists on the west coast are distributing leaflets and agitating otherwise in protest to the arrest by the FBI of west coast Communist leaders who are presently awaiting trial under the Smith Act. It is known that west coast Communists were planning to distribute such leaflets on a house to house basis.

JFB:j4

RECORDED - 122

INDEXED - 122

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62-31615-711
JAN 25 1952
14

CRIM. REC.

WINCHELL:

Russian engineers are successfully mining uranium in the giant mountains of upper Selica. This confirms the worst fears of allied intelligence.

COMMENT:

None. This is for your information.

WINCHELL:

Berlin: Four high Red Army officers deserted to the west this week.

COMMENT:

None. This is for your information.

WINCHELL:

The Presidential doghouse is presently occupied by Mr. Truman's Secretary, Matthew Connolly. The insiders tell me Matthew is seeking another job.

COMMENT:

None. This is for your information.

WINCHELL:

The famous friendship between the President and his friend George Allen is also said to have turned sour. The President expressed great indignation at Mr. Allen's role with his good friend Ike Eisenhower.

COMMENT:

None. This is for your information.

WINCHELL:

Washington: This is the story behind the ransomed American flyers. Sixteen large Hungarian plants offered an alibi to their Red Commissars over failure to meet their Red quotas. They alibied that American sabotage had retarded

their daily output and they seized our flyers as evidence to support their lies. The Kremlin fell for it. This explains the cheap ransom of only \$120,000.

COMMENT:

None. This is for your information.

WINCHELL:

New York Journal American: The high court heard the appeal of Yvette Matson last Tuesday. Her fate will be made known very soon. She is the Brooklyn girl who killed her Air Force husband in Germany. She is now in Womens Federal Penitentiary at Alderson, Virginia.

COMMENT:

None. This is for your information.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/10/84 BY SP8 BTJ/CL

5:31

January 23, 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. LADD
MR. NICHOLS

Irving Hoffman called me from New York to advise that the Post series on Walter Winchell are being syndicated and are to start running in the Los Angeles Mirror on Monday. He stated he is going to do quite a strong piece on these articles which obviously do not give the true picture. Mr. Hoffman told me that today they have a picture of Winchell with Johannes Steel with the comment that "there was a time when Johannes Steel, one of the Communist's pet Commie pet writers on international affairs, had Winchell's ear as above" but according to Mr. Hoffman they do not say that Johannes Steel was writing for the New York Post.

Mr. Hoffman stated that with reference to the piece he was going to write he was interested in the item the Post ran on the gangster in the Stork Club on New Year's Eve and he would like to know the background on this if possible. He stated he had checked on this and he believed it had come from McKelway's book in 1940 which was a series of profiles put out by the New Yorker. I told Mr. Hoffman that I had checked all our files in the Bureau, our regular call files and identification files and fingerprint files and we have no one by that name. I stated, of course, I would not say that no one by that name exists, but certainly if we were in pursuit of a man, or a man had impersonated a federal officer, or we had prosecuted him or he was a fugitive we would have him listed. I stated we had no record of any Terry Riley and I surmised that Lyle Stuart had probably picked it up from McKelway. Mr. Hoffman stated he thought he could challenge Stuart and say he would like to see them produce the man, as he felt if we could not they certainly could not, and he wondered if he would be safe in doing this. I told him I believed they could not produce such a man unless, of course, they had some fake one show up. I further told Mr. Hoffman that I recalled this particular evening very well at the Stork Club; that I did not recall this incident at a time that I was there with Walter Winchell and at the time Jim Braddock was the heavy weight champion of the world and Jim was at some other table with a group of friends and at midnight when the New Year came in someone suggested that Jim and I have our photograph taken together, and we did. I stated we put on some funny hats and I had a pop gun which was given out as a souvenir and there was no one else in the picture and there certainly was no such person as Riley in our entire party and I would certainly be the last person to ask anyone to join in on a picture unless I knew who they were. Mr. Hoffman asked whether he could

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EX-140

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62-31615-71

SENT FROM	0
TIME	7:45
DATE	1-24-52
BY	RAW

G.I.R.-6

say that he checked with me and that in the files of the FBI there is no such person. I told him he could certainly say that in the files of the FBI there is absolutely no record of any such fugitive or any such criminal with that name for those offenses. Mr. Hoffman stated he was going to do a pretty strong piece and he would send me a copy of his article.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.
John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc-Mr. Nease

JEM:EM

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. D. M. Ladd
FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont
SUBJECT: WALTER WINCHELL BROADCAST
JANUARY 6, 1952

DATE: January 7, 1952

Walter Winchell in his broadcast on Sunday evening, January 6, 1952, included the following items of possible interest to the Bureau:

WINCHELL:

New York City: U. S. Government contempt trial of Frank Costello starts tomorrow. Seven subpoenas have been served. Among the first on the stand will be Senator Kefauver and Rudolph Halley. Costello can get eleven years.

COMMENT:

Costello is being tried for Contempt of Congress. This is not a Bureau case.

WINCHELL:

Albany: The New York State Crime Commission has discovered startling news about a lower court judge in Manhattan, based on a tip offered by Governor Dewey.

COMMENT:

None. This is for your information.

WINCHELL:

Sing Sing: Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, now in the death house, will have their appeal heard on January 11th. Since Federal Judge Irving Kaufman sentenced them to die there hasn't been one new case of spying.

COMMENT:

The Julius and Ethel Rosenberg cases grew out of the Harry Gold espionage case and their convictions resulted from Bureau investigation.

JFB:jd

RECORDED - 61

JAN 21 1952

EX-108

65 FEB 6 1952

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/10/84 BY SP8 BTJ/ld

G.I.R.-6

WINCHELL:

The latest under scrutiny by the Senate Security Committee is a White House Secretary.

COMMENT:

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As you are aware, the McCarran Committee has requested information in the Bureau files concerning [REDACTED]. The fact that the Committee has made this inquiry was forwarded to the Department with the request that the Department advise as to the method of handling the Committee request. To date no reply has been received from the Department. It is not possible to tell definitely if Winchell was referring to [REDACTED]

WINCHELL:

House Un-American Activities Committee will serve fifteen subpoenas on Broadway theatrical people before the week end.

COMMENT:

The Bureau is aware that the HCUA has contemplated reconvening hearings on Communist infiltration in the motion picture industry early this year.

WINCHELL:

New York City: Federal Judge Harold Medina was tortured for many months by the Reds defense lawyers at the trial of the eleven convicted Reds. However, one of those lawyers, Harry Sacher will never again bother any other Federal Judge because he has been barred for life. Another legal thorn in Medina's side was also suspended for two years. Unfortunately, there is no way that Judge Medina can get back the years they took from his life.

COMMENT:

Abraham J. Isserman was the other attorney for the eleven convicted Communist leaders that was disbarred for two years. This disbarment proceeding has been pending for some time and final decision was just recently made in New York.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 19 1952

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

WASH 2 FROM NEW YORK

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9-31 A A

DIRECTOR URGENT

ATTENTION ASST. DIRECTOR L. B. NICHOLS

RE NY POST ARTICLE SUNDAY, JAN. TWENTY, NINETEEN FIFTY TWO

CAPTIONED QUOTE WINCHELL AND HOOVER UNQUOTE. THE ARTICLE, ONE OF A
SERIES ABOUT WINCHELL, FOLLOWS-

ARTICLE XII

OF ALL THE PUBLIC MEN IN WALTER WINCHELL-S LIFE, CHIEF G-MAN
J. EDGAR HOOVER HAS PROBABLY WON THE MOST NUMEROUS CITATIONS FOR CON-
DUCT ABOVE, BEYOND AND BELOW THE CALL OF DUTY.

THIS PALPITATING PALSHIP HAS ENDURED FOR NEARLY FIFTEEN YEARS.
IT IS ONE OF THE MOST COMPLETE AND TOUCHING EXAMPLES OF WINCHELL-S
FIDELITY TO A HERO. AS IN THE CASE OF ALL WINCHELL-S GOOD GUYS,
HOOVER CAN DO NO WRONG AND ANYBODY WHO DARES TO CRITICIZE HIM AUTO-
MATICALLY BECOMES A DANGEROUS CHARACTER IN WINCHELL-S BOOK OF REVELATIONS

IN SO LONG AND INTENSE A RELATIONSHIP THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW
TENSIONS, WHEN ONE FELT THE OTHER MOMENTARILY DEFECTIVE WINCHELL
MIGHT BE AGGRIEVED, BECAUSE HOOVER HAD SHOWN EXCESSIVE GENEROSITY
TOWARD ANOTHER JOURNALIST OR HOOVER MIGHT BE IRRITATED BY WINCHELL-S
MISGUIDED ALLEGIANCE TO SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WHOM HOOVER DEPLORED.

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THERE ARE ALSO INTERVALS WHEN CONGRESSIONAL CURIOSITY OVER THE EXTENT OF WINCHELL-S INTIMACY WITH THE AFFAIRS OF THE FBI CREATES A DISCREET COOLING-OFF PERIOD IN THE HOOVER-WINCHELL ASSOCIATION. BUT THE CHILL HAS NEVER BEEN PROLONGED OR FATAL.

TO READ AND HEAR WINCHELL OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEARS IS TO GET THE KIND OF IDEALIZED BIOGRAPHY OF HOOVER USUALLY RESERVED FOR SUCH IMMORTALS AS BABE RUTH. NO WORD OF CRITICISM EVER INTERRUPTS THE FLOW. WINCHELL IS NOT MERELY DEDICATED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS AND HISTORIC UTTERANCES OF THE TOP G-MAN. HE DISPLAYS A FANATICALLY DETAILED PREOCCUPATION WITH HOOVER-S LITTLE JOYS AND SORROWS, HIS ILLS AND RECOVERIES, HIS FURIES AND HIS FLUTTERS.

IRONICALLY, IN HIS ZEAL FOR HIS TASK THERE IS SOME QUESTION AS TO WHETHER WINCHELL HAS ALWAYS BEEN HELPFUL AND WHETHER, IN THE LONG RUN, HOOVER FULLY EMERGES FROM WINCHELL-S WORD-PICTURES AS THE MAN OF DISTINCTION HE IS ALLEGED TO BE. THERE ARE MOMENTS, AT LEAST, WHEN WINCHELL-S EXPRESSION OF BOYISHLY BOISTEROUS ESTEEM FOR OUR TOP COP HAVE MADE BOTH OF THEM LOOK DOWNRIGHT COMIC.

TAKE THE CASE OF THE MISSING COMMUNIST LEADERS.

BACK ON NOV. EIGHT, NINETEEN FORTY EIGHT, WINCHELL GAVE THE COUNT THIS REASSURING NEWS- "THE FBI CAN PICK UP EVERY COMMUNIST CHIEF WITHIN AN HOUR VIA ITS UP-TO-DATE LIST." SEVEN DAYS LATER HE REPEATED THE ASSURANCE-

"MANY TOP MEN IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY HERE ARE IN HIDING. ... THE FBI KNOWS ALL THE LEADERS AND IF AN EMERGENCY COMES UP THEY WILL BE COLLARED WITH THE SAME DISPATCH USED ON PEARL HARBOR DAY."

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ALL THIS SOUNDED LIKE CLEAR REASSURANCE FROM THE FBI THAT THE COMMUNIST CHIEFTAINS COULDN'T MAKE A MOVE WITHOUT SOMEBODY CALLING HOOVER. THE MYTH MIGHT HAVE SURVIVED IF EIGHT RANKING COMMUNISTS HADN'T JUMPED BAIL ON THE EVE OF SENTENCING LAST JULY.

SEVEN ARE STILL MISSING AND THE EIGHTH WAS CAUGHT BY THE MEXICAN COPS.

SINCE THE EPISODE OF THE VANISHING UN-AMERICANS WINCHELL HAS BEEN RELATIVELY SILENT ON THE EMBARRASSING SUBJECT OF FBI SURVEILLANCE. HE DID REPORT ON JULY NINE THAT THE FBI "FEARS" THAT ROBERT G. THOMPSON, ONE OF THOSE STILL A W O L, IS "ARMED AND SEEKS TO BECOME A MARTYR." PRESUMABLY HE GOT THIS FROM THE SAME SOURCE WHICH TOLD HIM THAT GUS HALL HAD A VIAL OF POISON WITH HIM AND WOULD KILL HIMSELF "A LA HIMMLER" THE MOMENT HE WAS APPREHENDED. HALL WAS NABBED IN MEXICO ON OCT. NINE, NINETEEN FIFTY ONE, THE VIAL WAS MISSING.

HOOVER-S REPUTATION FOR ~~XXXXXXXX~~ OMNISCIENCE ~~XX~~ MAY BE DAMAGED ON A LESSER SCALE BY SUCH ITEMS AS WINCHELL-S BLEAK REPORT ON JULY FOURTEEN, NINETEEN FORTY EIGHT-

"JOHN EDGAR HOOVER-S "PAINED" EXPRESSION, INTIMATES KNOW, IS FROM HIS FEAR THAT "WAR MAY COME TOMORROW." NOW DON-T ASK HIM IF IT IS TRUE, HE WILL ONLY DENY IT."

UNFORTUNATELY FOR HOOVER, THERE IS NO RECORD OF A DENIAL.

IN HIS DESIRE TO PROVE THAT THE G-MEN ARE ALWAYS THERE WHEN IT

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MATTERS, WINCHELL SOMETIMES OFFERS BEWILDERING HIGHLIGHTS OF HINDSIGHT. THUS, AFTER THE ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT TRUMAN LAST YEAR, HE WROTE-

"THE WASHINGTON RUMBLINGS THAT THE FBI HAD NO ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE PUERTO RICAN INSURRECTION DOESN'T IMPRESS THE K GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WHICH GOT DETAILED ADVANCE NEWS /FROM THE G-MEN/ ON THE SAN JUAN NATIONALISTS- PLANS."

THE PARAGRAPH WAS OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO SHOW THAT J. EDGAR HOOVER ALWAYS HAS HIS FINGER ON THE PULSE OF THE PLOTTERS. IF THAT WAS TRUE, THE OBVIOUS QUESTION- UNASKED AND UNANSWERED BY WINCHELL- IS WHY THE G-MEN DIDN'T FOIL THE PLOT BEFORE THE SHOOTING STARTED.

SUCH MISFORTUNES ARE LIKELY TO AFFLICT ANY PUBLIC FIGURE WHO BARES HIS CERTITUDES AND PROPHECIES AS OFTEN AS HOOVER-S ARE UNFOLDED BY WINCHELL.

THEIR RELATIONSHIP GOES WAY BACK. IN NINETEEN THIRTY FOUR- ALTHOUGH THEY HAD NOT YET MET, HOOVER ASSIGNED TWO G-MEN AS WINCHELL BODYGUARDS WHEN THE COLUMNIST TOOK A TRIP TO MOB-RIDDEN CHICAGO. SINCE WINCHELL THEN /AS NOW/ MANAGED TO LIVE A DOUBLE LIFE IN WHICH HE COULD CLAIM SOME DISTINGUISHED GANGSTERS AS FRIENDS EVEN WHILE HE CONSORTED WITH THE COPS, THE UNDERWORLD ALSO HAD THREE MEN TAKING CARE OF HIM.

BY NEW YEAR-S EVE OF NINETEEN THIRTY FIVE WINCHELL AND HOOVER WERE CELEBRATING NEW YEAR-S EVE TOGETHER AT THE STORK CLUB, AN EVENT SUBSEQUENTLY PRESERVED FOR POSTERITY IN PUBLISHED ESSAYS. IT WAS QUITE A NIGHT BECAUSE TERRY REILLY, A NOTORIOUS GUNMAN OF THE ERE, WAS

ALSO ON HAND AND HOOVER /NOT RECOGNIZING REILLY/ JOINED OTHERS IN TRYING TO PERSUADE HIM TO POSE FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHERS WITH A TOY MACHINE-GUN. REILLY WAS ON PAROLE AT THE TIME, HAVING BEEN CONVICTED OF EXTORTION AND IMPERSONATING A G-MAN.

ALTHOUGH WINCHELL-S PALSHIPS WITH UNDERWORLD FIGURES HAVE FLUCTUATED, REACHING A GAUDY CLIMAX WITH HIS RECENT PUBLIC ENNOBLING OF FRANK COSTELLO, HOOVER HAS APPARENTLY NOT SEEN FIT TO TELL WINCHELL TO CHANGE HIS CIRCLE OF FRIENDS. THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, THAT GOSSIP ON THE POINT HAS WORRIED THE G-MAN. HOOVER HAS SHOWN INCREASING DISCRETION ABOUT BEING SEEN IN UNDUE PROXIMITY TO MOBSTERS.

IN RECENT YEARS THE STORK CLUB HAS BECOME THE CHIEF RENDEZ-VOUS FOR HOOVER AND WINCHELL, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THESE PRIOR EMBARRASMENTS AT OTHER PLACES OR POSSIBLY BECAUSE WINCHELL LEAVES THE STORK LESS AND LESS FREQUENTLY WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME EXCEPT TO MAN HIS OCEANSIDE FLORIDA BASTION.

IF THE CURIOUS DUALITY OF WINCHELL-S TIES WITH THE G-MEN AND FRANK COSTELLO HAS BROUGHT ANY PAIN TO HOOVER, IT MUST BE WEIGHED AGAINST THE CONSTANT STREAM OF ADULATION AND ANXIETY WITH WHICH HOOVER-S LIFE IS RECORDED BY WINCHELL.

THERE ARE DAYS WHEN IT SOUNDS AS IF WINCHELL RECEIVES A DAILY MEDICAL BULLETIN ON THE G-MAN- WELFARE.

ON SEPT. TEN, NINETEEN FORTY ONE, WINCHELL DISCLOSED THAT HOOVER HAD LOST TWENTY POUNDS IN FOUR WEEKS, "EATING HALF OF EACH MEAL." ON MAY FIFTEEN, NINETEEN FORTY THREE, WE LEARNED THAT HOOVER "AFTER A TOUGH TEN DAYS OF FLU IS HONKY-DOOLY AGAIN." THE FOLLOWING YEAR-

6 0 1
SEPT. FOUR, NINETEEN FORTY FOUR-- WE GOT THE OMINOUS WORD THAT
"JOHN EDGAR HOOVER WAS SO ILL RECENTLY HE THOUGHT HE WOULD DIE."
BY NINETEEN FORTY FIVE WINCHELL IS SOLICITOUSLY REPORTING THAT
"CERTAIN POWERFUL ENEMIES IN WASHINGTON ARE TRYING TO WORRY HIM
/HOOVER/ INTO LOOKING OLDER."

THE G-MAN-S ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES AT THE STORK CLUB ARE
FAITHFULLY ANNOTATED, AT NO TIME HAS IT APPARENTLY OCCURED TO WINCHELL
THAT A NERVOUS, SECURITY-CONSCIOUS AMERICA MIGHT BE TROUBLED BY THE
KNOWLEDGE THAT OUR CHIEF G-MAN IS FOREVER /ACCORDING TO WINCHELL/
SLIPPING IN AND OUT OF NEW YORK NITERIES. UNDOUBTEDLY HOOVER SPENDS
MANY LONG HOURS AT HIS DESK, BUT THE ACCUMULATIVE EFFECT OF WINCHELL
ITEMS IS TO SUGGEST THAT THE G-MAN CAN-T STAY AWAY FROM NEW YORK.

THE CRUELEST THING THAT WINCHELL HAS DONE TO HOOVER- WITH THE
BEST OF INTENTIONS-- IS TO TRY TO "HUMANIZE" HIM. THE RESULT OF THIS
EFFORT CAN ONLY GIVE PAUSE TO THOSE WHO LIKE TO BELIEVE /AS WINCHELL
WOULD LIKE US TO BELIEVE/ THAT HOOVER IS PROTECTING OUR NATION
TWENTYFOUR HOURS A DAY AND DESTROYING HIS HEALTH BY HIS SINGLE-
MINDED DEVOTION TO DUTY. AS HIS DIARY IS AFFECTIONATELY SET DOWN BY
WINCHELL, HOOVER FINDS EXTRAORDINARY TIME FOR DIVERSIONS UNRELATED TO
THE NATIONAL DEFENSE.

HE HAS BEEN ABLE, FOR EXAMPLE, TO ACT AS
LITERARY ADVISOR TO SOPHIE TUCKER- ✓

"SOPHIE TUCKER, WHOSE NEW BOOK" THE LIFE OF THE RED HOT MAMMA,"
WILL HAVE ASBESTOS COVERS BECAUSE MR. G-MAN SO SUGGESTED IN A CLOWNING
MOOD," WINCHELL RELATED ON SEPT. EIGHTEEN, NINETEEN FORTY ONE.

DURING THE GRIM DAYS OF MAY, NINETEEN FORTY TWO, WINCHELL DEPICTED
HOOVER AS A MAN WITH "A NEW RADIO FAVORITE -- RED SKELTON AND HIS
"I DOOD IT.""

7-
ON DEC. TWENTY THREE, NINETEEN FORTY FOUR, AMID THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, WE LEARN FROM WINCHELL THAT "I JUST SAW G-MAN HOOVER IN BRENTANO-S BUYING A COPY OF "CHARLIE CHAN.""

IT WAS IN THE SAME YEAR THAT AMERICA LEARNED VIA WINCHELL THAT "JOHN EDGAR HOOVER-S TAILOR IS HIDDEN AWAY ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR OF TEN WEST FORTYSEVENTH STREET" AND THAT THE G-MAN HAD FOUND A NEW "REDUCING TRICK" -- A HOT BATH FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES A DAY.

IN DECEMBER, NINETEEN FORTY SEVEN, WINCHELL OFFERED A NEW GLIMPSE OF THE SIMPLE PLEASURES WHICH CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JOY AND SORROW FOR A SUPERSLEUTH- "THE ONE PERSON J. EDGAR HOOVER WOULD LIKE TO MEET AND KNOW IS HIS FAVORITE COMEDIAN, JAMES DURANTE." WINCHELL-S INABILITY TO ARRANGE THE INTRODUCTION IS UNEXPLAINED.

ON JUNE TWENTY NINE, NINETEEN FORTY NINE, WE ARE AGAIN GIVEN A BRIEF PORTRAIT OF THE LIGHTER SIDE OF THE MAN- JOHN EDGAR HOOVER PURCHASING A NOISY PAIR OF SWIMMING TRUNKS AT CLYDE-AS ON MADISON AVE." AND IN JAN., NINETEEN FIFTY ONE, WE GET A COY SNAPSHOT OF HOOVER PLAYING STRAIGHT MAN FOR A LOVELY THING-

"TO G-MAN HOOVER, WHO TEASED HER, TEEVY-S NEW DUMB DOLLING BABY- STARED- "I REFUSE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS ON THE GROUND IT MIGHT INCINERATE ME.""

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WINCHELL OBVIOUSLY REGARDS IT AS ONE OF OUR REPUBLIC-S WORST OVERSIGHTS THAT J. EDGAR IS CONFINED TO THE ROLE OF FBI CHIEF WHILE LESSER MEN ARE DESIGNATED TO RUN FOR OFFICE. "DEMOCRATIC BIGGIES ARE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING G-MAN HOOVER FOR ROOSEVELT-S RUNNING MATE," HE PROCLAIMED HOPEFULLY IN MAY, NINETEEN FORTYFOUR. THERE ISN-T A TRACE OF HISTORICAL PROOF THAT THE IDEA EVER TRESPASSED BEYOND WINCHELL-S COKUMN. IN DECEMBER, NINETEEN FORTYSEVEN, WINCHELL TOLD US THAT HOOVER HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY A "BIG REPUBLICAN" TO SEEK THE PRESIDENCY BUT SPURNED THE OFFER WITH THESE NOBLE WORDS-

"TO BE ELECTED I-D HAVE TO MAKE A DEAL, WHICH I WOULD NEVER."

AT LEAST SOME WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS BELIEVE WINCHELL HAD ENTERED THE FIELD OF IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS.

BUT IT IS ONLY IN THE REALM OF ATTACK AND COUNTER-ATTACK THAT THE FULL MEASURE OF WINCHELL-S DEVOTION TO HOOVER CAN BE WEIGHED. ANY DULL BOOK, UNREVEALING MAGAZINE ARTICLE OR C-MOVIE THAT PICTURES HOOVER AS HERO IS SURE TO RATE A PLUG IN WINCHELL-S WORKS, ANY UNFAVORABLE NOTICE IS SURE TO INITIATE A CAMPAIGN OF REPRISAL DESIGNED TO DESTROY THE VICTIM AND TERRIFY ANY POTENTIAL IMITATORS.

IN THIS AS IN OTHER MATTERS WINCHELL OPERATES WITH THE PASSION

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LET IT BE SAID FOR HOOVER THAT HE HAS NEVER IN ANY PUBLIC PROTESTATION INDICATED EITHER THAT HE AUTHORIZED SUCH DISCLOSURES OR THAT HE FELT SUCH SAGAS WERE BENEATH THE DIGNITY OF HIS OFFICE.

WINCHELL-S PREOCCUPATION WITH HOOVER-S HEALTH IS EQUALLED ONLY BY HIS CONCERN FOR THE G-MAN-S FINANCIAL WELL-BEING. HE IS ETERNALLY REPORTING THAT HOOVER HAS JUST REJECTED FANCY SUMS FOR JOBS IN PRIVATE LIFE /WHICH COULD WELL BE TRUE/. HE IS ALSO CONSTANTLY LAMENTING HOOVER-S FINANCIAL PLIGHT. "AFTER TWENTY FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY, G-MAN HOOVER IS BROKE," SAID WINCHELL ON DEC. THREE, NINETEEN FORTY FIVE.

SINCE HOOVER IS A BACHELOR WITH NO VISIBLE BACKBREAKING OSLIGATIONS, THE REMARK, INTENDED AS A PUFF, COULD HAVE BEEN CONSTRUED AS A RECKLESS CHARGE OF EXTRAVAGANCE. THE FOLLOWING YEAR WINCHELL NOTED THAT HOOVER HAD BEEN GIVEN A NEW CAR "INSTEAD OF A NEW SALARY." IN FEB., NINETEEN FORTY FINE, THE FISCAL INEQUITY STILL TROUBLED HIM- "WHEN THEY VOTED THEMSELVES ALL THOSE STIFF RAISES IN WAGES /IN WASHINGTON/ THEY OVERLOODED G-MAN HOOVER. RMF."

HOWEVER, WINCHELL OCCASIONALLY BRIGHTENS THE FISCAL PICTURE, AS WHEN HE REPORTS THAT "J. E. HOOVER, WHOSE HAT WAS SWIPED AT HARVEY-S IN WASHINGTON, BET TWO DOLLARS ON A HORSE NAMED "LOST-A-HAT" AND WON THIRTEEN DOLLARS AND SEVENTY CENTS."

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OF AN ANTI-LOGICIAN. IT GOES LIKE THIS- A- THE COMMUNISTS ATTACK J. EDGAR HOOVER B- ANYBODY WHO ATTACKS HOOVER IS A COMMUNIST. UNDOUBTEDLY IT HAS NEVER OCCURED TO WINCHELL THAT THE SAME FALLACY COULD BE APPLIED WITH MURDEROUS COUNTER- EFFECT- A- IN NINETEEN FORTY FOUR THE COMMUNISTS SUPPORTED THE RE-ELECTION OF ROOSEVELT B- WINCHELL IS A COMMUNIST BECAUSE HE ALSO SUPPORTED ROOSEVELT.

THE MOST SAVAGE INSTANCE OF WINCHELL PUNISHMENT FOR THE CRIME OF QUESTIONING THE WISDOM AND VIRTUE OF J. EDGAR HOOVER IS THE STORY OF MAX LOWENTHAL.

LOWENTHAL IS A MAVERICK LIBERAL WHO LONG AGO DEVELOPED THE THEORY THAT HOOVER-S FBI WAS NEITHER EFFICIENT, ENLIGHTENED NOR SACROSANCT. HE WAS TROUBLED BY WHAT HE REGARDED AS HOOVER-S STEADY USURPATION OF POWER, HE WAS DISTURBED BY FBI WIRE-TAPPING. HE WAS, PERHAPS MOST OF ALL, UNHAPPY OVER THE TIMIDITY OF HIGH-RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS -- INCLUDING FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT -- TO RISK PUBLIC ARGUMENT WITH THE CHIEF G-MAN.

IN THE AUTUMN OF NINETEEN FIFTY LOWENTHAL PUBLISHED A BOOK EMBODYING YEARS OF RESEARCH ON THE FAILURES AND FOLLIES OF THE FBI. AS MOST REVIEWERS NOTED, THE BOOK HAD BOTH VIRTUES AND DEFECTS. IT WAS EARNEST, WELL-DOCUMENTED, AND UTTERLY COMMITTED TO AN INITIAL PREMISE. BUT AT THE VERY LEAST IT WAS A SERIOUS WORK DESERVING SERIOUS COMMENT. IN THE EYES OF BOTH WINCHELL AND THE FBI IT WAS HIGH TREASON.

BY AIR AND BY LAND, WINCHELL OPENED FIRE ON LOWENTHAL FOR WRITING "NOTHING MORE NOR LESS THAN A VICIOUS ONE-SIDED ATTACK ON J. EDGAR HOOVER." AT NO TIME DID HE CHALLENGE ANY OF THE FACTS SET FORTH IN LOWENTHAL-S WORK-- INCLUDING GRUESOME EXAMPLES OF FBI INEPTITUDE. INSTEAD HE DEMANDED THAT THE BOOK BE DISMISSED /OR BURNED/ ON THE SIMPLE GROUND THAT LOWENTHAL WAS A SINISTER FELLOW.

WINCHELL DID NOT ALLEGE THAT LOWENTHAL WAS A COMMUNIST OR A FELLOW-TRAVELLER. HE JUST DROPPED THE WORD THAT LOWENTHAL "KNEW" ALGER HISS AND LEE PRESSMAN /AS DID FDR/. HE "REVEALED" THAT AS EARLY AS NINETEEN FORTY LOWENTHAL HAD SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE FBI -- A REVELATION OF SOMEWHAT DUBIOUS IMPACT SINCE LOWENTHAL HAD NEVER HIDDEN HIS FEELINGS ON THE SUBJECT. AND FINALLY, AS A CLIMATIC DISCLOSURE, HE REPORTED-

"PROFESSOR ~~HAWKINS~~ ON THE LOS ALAMOS ATOMIC BOMB PROJECT DURING THE WAR HAS ADMITTED UNDER OATH HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. THE FBI HAS DISCOVERED THHAT PROFESSOR HAWKINS HANDLED DRAFT DEFERMENTS AND SECURITY REGULATIONS . . . DR. HAWKINS, UNDER OATH, TESTIFIED THAT BOTH HE AND HIS WIFE WERE CARD CARRIERS. HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW IS WILLIAM ~~SLOAN~~ OF WM. SLOAN ASSOCIATES -- THE PUBLISHERS OF MAX LOWENTHAL-S RECENT BOOK ATTACKING JOHN EDGAR HOOVER AND THE FBI."

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SUPREME EXAMPLE OF GUILT BY INVOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION WITH A BROTHER-IN-LAW WAS UNFURLED BY WINCHELL AS THE LAST WORD ON THE SUBJECT. IT WAS SUPPOSED TO RING DOWN THE CURTAIN ON ANY REAL DISCUSSION OF THE BOOK.

ABSURD AND ILLOGICAL AS WINCHELL-S CHARGES WERE, THEY WERE NEVERTHELESS CLEARLY CALCULATED TO TERRIFY BOOKSELLERS AND TO INVITE SUSPICION ON ANYONE WHO TOOK A RATIONAL VIEW OF THE VOLUME. SO SERIOUS DID WINCHELLS-S ASSAULT BECOME THAT THE ANTI-CENSORSHIP COMMITTEE OF BOOK PUBLISHERS COUNCIL FELT COMPELLED TO ISSUE A STATEMENT DECLARING- "MR WINCHELL-S CHARGES ARE SERIOUS AND, BEING WITHOUT SUPPORT, ARE UNFORTUNATE EXAMPLES OF THE USE OF THE SMEAR TECHNIQUE. AS SUCH THEY CONSTITUTE A DANGER TO FREEDOM OF PRESS AND SPEECH."

HOOVER AND WINCHELL HAVE PLAINLY MEANT A GREAT DEAL TO EACH OTHER AND THEIR ALLIANCE IS NOT AS GROTESQUE AS IT MIGHT INITIALLY APPEAR. THEY ARE BOTH MEN WHO ENJOY POWER MORE THAN WEALTH. THEY BOTH HAVE DEEP PERSECUTION COMPLEXES AND ARE ALWAYS VISUALIZING DARK CONSPIRACIES FASHIONED BY INVISIBLE ENEMIES. THEY BOTH HAVE GENUINELY FRENZIED IMPATIENCE WITH CRITICISM OF ANY SORT. THEY BOTH LOVE PLAYING COPS

AND ROBBERS.

ALTHOUGH ENTIRELY REVERENT TOWARD HOOVER-S TALENTS AS AN INVESTIGATOR, WINCHELL NEVER UNDERESTIMATES HIS OWN- SOMETHING OF THE BOY G-MAN IN HIM MUST BE AT WORK AS HE CRUISES AROUND NEW YORK IN THE PRE-DAWN HOURS WITH A POLICE RADIO IN HIS CAR, MAKING HIS ROUNDS AS LEADER OF A WBI OF HIS OWN.

13
WHO HAS BEEN USING WHOM/Q/

AS A NEWSPAPERMAN WINCHELL OBVIOUSLY FEELS THAT HE "OWNS" THE FBI. HE HAS RECEIVED SOME NOTABLE TIPS FROM THE AGENCY- MOMENTOUS FBI ANNOUNCEMENTS HAVE BEEN INTERMITTENTLY GEARED TO THE HOUR OF WINCHELL-S SUNDAY NIGHT BROADCAST SO THAT HE COULD BE FIRST WITH THE NEWS. HE HAS CERTAINLY BEEN GIVEN FIRST RIGHTS TO ALL DATA ON THE CARE AND FEEDING OF THE CHIEF G-MAN AND OTHER INTIMATE TIDBITS. HE BOASTS TO ASSOCIATES THAT HOOVER HAS A DIRECT TELEPHONE CONNECTION FOR HIM AND THAT HE NEED NEVER BE IN THE DARK WHEN THE FBI CAN SHED LIGHT.

MANY OTHER REPORTERS ARE WILLING TO BE EQUALLY GENEROUS TO HOOVER IN RETURN FOR SMALLER FAVORS.

YET IN VIEW OF THE SERVICES WINCHELL HAS RENDERED ONE WONDERS WHETHER THE BARGAIN HAS FULLY PAID OFF. HE HAS NOT MERELY TAKEN UP HOOVER-S CAUSE AGAINST ALL HOSTILE CRITICS IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD- HE HAS FAITHFULLY FOUGHT HIS BATTLES FOR HIM WHEN HOOVER BECAME INVOLVED-AS HE OFTEN DOES-IN INTRA-GOVERNMENTAL FEUDS.

PERHAPS THE CHARACTERISTIC MOST COMMON TO BOTH MEN IS A SENSE OF INSECURITY AND NOWHERE ARE HOOVER-S JITTERS MORE FREQUENTLY REVEALED THAN IN WINCHELL-S COLUMN. AFTER INTERMINABLY DESCRIBING THE VARIOUS BIG-TIME OFFERS THAT HOOVER HAD REJECTED/AND NO DOUBT THERE HAVE BEEN MANY OF THEM/, WINCHELL ABRUPTLY ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY TWENTYTHIRD, NINETEEN FORTYSIX-"J. EDGAR HOOVER WISHES IT YELLED LOUD AND LONG THAT HE HAS NO PRESENT INTENTION OF RESIGNING FROM THE FBI." IT SOUNDED AS

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THOUGH THEY WERE BOTH AFRAID THAT TOO MANY PEOPLE AT THE WHITE HOUSE WERE HOPEFULLY AWAITING THE RESIGNATION.

DURING THE NINETEEN FORTYEIGHT CAMPAIGN THERE WERE UNVERIFIED REPORTS THAT, IF ELECTED, DEWEY WOULD FIRE HOOVER, PERHAPS ON THE THEORY THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD NOT NEED TWO SUPER-INVESTIGATORS IN HIGH PLACES. ON SEPT. NINTH WINCHELL CALLED SUCH REPORTS "BUNK," ADDING- "WE CAN STATE IN AUTHORITY THAT GOV. DEWEY HAS THE HIGHEST REGARD AND RESPECT FOR THE G-MAN WHOSE REPUTATION REMAINS UNSTAINED AFTER NEARLY TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVING THE NATION."

THIS SEEMINGLY SETTLED IT BUT NOT QUITE. AFTER TRUMAN-S RE-ELECTION WINCHELL INDICATED THAT POSSIBLY IT HADN-T BEEN "BUNK" AFTER ALL. IN A POST-ELECTION ANALYSIS OFFERED ON NOVEMBER NINTH WINCHELL WROTE- "MAYBE IT WASN-T THAT THE PEOPLE DIDN-T WANT TO SEE TRUMAN LOSE HIS JOB. THEY WERE PROBABLY JUST AS ANXIOUS TO MAKE SURE G-MAN HOOVER DIDN-T LOSE HIS."

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THERE ARE, OF COURSE, INTERMITTENT RUMORS OF FRICTION. ONE MAN WHO KNOWS HOOVER WELL/AND DISLIKES WINCHELL/ TOLD US RECENTLY THAT THE FBI CHIEF HAS "REGRETTEED" THE EXTENT OF HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE COLUMNIST- THIS COULD BE TRUE OR IT COULD BE WISFUL THINKING ON THE PART OF A WINCHELL FOE.

THE PUBLIC RECORD, IN ANY CASE, IS FULL OF LOVE AND KISSES.

ON MARCH TWENTY ONE, NINETEEN FORTY EIGHT, WINCHELL WAS ABLE TO PUBLISH THIS ARDENT LOVE-LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF THE FBI-

"DEAR WALTER- JUST A NOTE TO SAY HELLO. DO TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF AND DON-T OVERDO BECAUSE YOU ARE FAR TOO VALUABLE TO THE COUNTRY.. YOU MUST REALLY GET A LOT OF SATISFACTINN NOW WHEN SO MANY OF YOUR "HYSTERICAL" ASSERTIONS AND PREDICTIONS ARE BECOMING ALL TOO REAL. SOME INDIVIDUALS MUST SURELY BE HAVING ACUTE HYDROPHOBIA IN HAVING TO RECOGNIZE FINALLY HOW TRUE YOU HAVE BEEN ALL ALONG. WITH BEST WICHES I AM. SINCERELY, JOHN".

SO MOVING A MONUMENT SHOULD STAND BY ITSELF BUT A COUPLE OF REMARKABLE THINGS ABOUT THE LETTER MUST BE NOTED. FOR ONE THING J. EDGAR HOOVER, WHO WORKS FOR HARRY S. TRUMAN, FELT NO HESITANCY ABOUT WRITING THIS NOTE AT A MOMENT WHEN WINCHELL WAS BLASTING AWAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE NIGHT AND DAY.

MOREOVER, OUR CHIEF G-MAN FOUND HIMSELF EXTOLLING THE SUPERIOR WISDOM AND PERCEPTION OF A MAN WHO, LESS THAN THREE YEARS BEFORE, HAD BEEN WARMLY BLESSING COMMUNIST-FRONTERS AND ANGRILY DENOUNCING ANYBODY WHO DARED TO QUESTION THE VIRTUES OF OUR RUSSIAN ALLY.

BUT TO RAISE THAT POINT IS TO INTRODUCE CRUELLY

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16
RATIONAL ELEMENTS INTO AN EPISODE OF COMRADESHIP THAT COULD ONLY
HAPPEN HERE.

ANYWAY, WINCHELL HAS RECIPROCATED THESE EMOTIONS A THOUSAND-
FOLD. IT WAS TO HOOVER THAT HE OFFERED, ON JULY FIRST, NINETEEN FORTY
SIX, WHAT WINCHELL MUST HAVE REGARDED AS THE HIGHEST TRIBUTE MAN CAN
PAY TO HIS FELLOW-MAN-

"BOODBY-HATCH INMATES NO LONGER THINK THEY ARE NAPOLEON.
ACCORDING TO N. Y. STATE MEDICOS, THEY THINK THEY ARE J. E. HOOVER
OR MAC ARTHUR."

WHAT GREATER LOVE HATH ANY MAN/Q/

END OF ARTICLE

WALTER AND THE FBI

FROM THE PUBLISHED PAPERS OF WW

THE FBI IS DOING A LOYALTY CHECK ON ALL NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS. PART OF THE CHECK IS QUERYING THE PSYCHOLOGISTS /ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION/ ABOUT EACH PRINCIPAL, SINCE THE PSYCHOLOGISTS TRAVEL FROM SCHOOL TO SCHOOL. . . . /APRIL 25, 1949/

J. E. HOOVER SQUELCHES THE REPORT THAT THE FBI IS PROBING THE LOYALTY OF LOCAL SCHOOL PRINCIPALS. . . . -- /MAY 16, -949./

AFTER THIS COLUMN TIPPED THE N.Y. TEACHER RED SCANDAL LONG AGO, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION-S MR. JANSSEN DEMANDED A RETRACTION VIA THE MIRROR CHIEFS. HMF. -- /MAY 8, 1950./

THE CIVIL DEFENSE PLAN JUST PUT FORTH BY THE DEPT. OF DEFENSE IS DANGEROUSLY NEAR A BLUEPRINT FOR AMERICAN FASCISM. . . . THIS PLAN IS PART OF THE FORRESTAL-EBERHARDT /SIC/ PLOT TO TAKE OVER THE FBI. -- /NOV. 16, 1948./

BIG TALK IN THE CAPITOL IS THE COMPLETE FAILURE OF FERDINAND EBERSTADT TO GET J. EDGAR HOOVER KICKED "UPSTAIRS" -- MEANING OUT -- /FEB. 14, 1949./

F. EBERSTADT SENDS SUCH A NICE LETTER HE RATES GETTING HIS SIDE OF IT IN PRINT, ALTHOUGH HE DOESN-T WANT ANY CORRECTION OR ANYTHING WANTS YOU TO KNOW IT ISN-T TRUE HE TRIED TO GET G-MAN HOOVER FIRED. -- /FEB. 18, 1949./

THE LATEST COALITION TRYING TO GET J. EDGAR HOOVER FIRED IS HEADED BY AN EX-FCC HEAD. THE FEUD DATES TO THE TIME THE G-MAN REQUESTED A CHECK ON FINGERPRINTS OF LEFTISH MARINE WIRELESS OPERATORS.

-- /APRIL 11, 1949./

THE ROOSEVELT CHILL CASABLANCA CONFERENCE USED BY FEDERAL
AUTHORITIES TO UNCOVER A LEAK SPOUTING FROM WASHINGTON . . . THE FEDS
DROPPED THE RUMOR THAT ROOSEVELT AND CHURCHILL WERE OUT OF THE U. S.
AND ENGLAND . . . TWENTY-FOUR HOURS LATER THE GERMAN SHORT-WAVE SENT IT
OUT OVER THE AIR . . . THEN THE FEDS CIRCULATED A PHONY RUMOR THAT THE
MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE IN CANADA . . . THE GERMAN SHORT-WAVE
RADIO ANNOUNCED THIS, TOO. . . HOW THE FEDS MANAGED TO DO IT IS THEIR
SECRET, BUT AS A RESULT -- THEY TRAPPED TWENTY-TWO MEN, SOME OF WHOM
E
ARE SAID TO BE HIGH IN U. S. GOV-T CIRCLES. --/FEB. 8, 1943./

A WEEK AGO IN THIS APACE THE OPENING PARAGRAPH DEALT WITH COUNTER-
ESPIONAGE EFFORTS OF FEDERAL AUTHORITIES ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE
PRESIDENT. A WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT WIRED A STATEMENT THAT THE STORY
"WAS REPUDIATED BY THE F.B.I." . . . HOW CAN SOMEONE
REPUDIATE THAT WHICH WAS NEVER ATTRIBUTED TO THEM/Q/ . . . OUR
PARAGRAPH NEVER MENTIONED THE F.B.I. . . IT DIDN'T SAY THE F.B.I.
TOOK ANYBODY UNTO DUSTODY NOR DID IT MENTION /AS BEFITS NEWSPAPER
ETHICS/ ANY SPECIFIC SOURCE . . . PRAISE THE LORD -- AND CHECK THE
INFORMATION.. --/FEB. 15, 1943./

GOERING ONCE SAID, BETWEEN CHUCKLES, WHEN GERMANY WAS ACCUSED
OF SPYING . . . T. "WE DON-T NEED SPIES TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU ARE PLANNING
AND DOING. WE MERELY READ THE AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES/."
--/MAY 17, 1950./

FUGITIVE COMMUNIST GERHARDT EISLER KNEW THAT THE BATORY ON WHICH
HE STOWAWAYED" WOULD F
IVE HIM REFUGE . . . EISLER, HOWEVER, IS BEING
BROUGHTAEXXIEX BACK TO ENJOY THE LUXURY OF A FEDERAL PRISON, IF
CONVICTED. . . - / MAY 17, 1949./

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GERHARDT EISLER-S LAMENT- "DOWN WITH AMERICAN GENDARMES AND DOWN WITH THEIR BRITISH HELPERS/ //" /THEY-LL BE DOWN TO GETCHA IN A WAGON, HONEY/ -- /MAY 22, 1949./

NOBODY REALLY EXPECTED BRITAIN TO SEND EISLER BACK. THEY NEVER RETURN ANYTHING. -- /MAY 30, 1949./

THE GERHARDT EISLERS /HIS 3RD FRAU/ HAVE ATOMIC-D. HIS 2ND WIFE IN STOCKHOLM TELLS TOWNERS THEY NEVER WERE MELTED AND THAT THE RED AGENT IS A BIGAMIST. --/NOV. 21, 1949./

STORY CREDITS WERE GIVEN AS FOLLOWS-

THIS SERIES WAS PREPARED BY THE EDITORS OF THE POST AND THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE REPORTING STAFF- ALVIN ~~DAVIS~~, WILLIAM ~~DUFTY~~, IRVING ~~LIEBERMAN~~, NANCY ~~SEELY~~, BENNETT ~~SCHIFF~~, WILLIAM V. ~~SHANNON~~ AND ROBERT G. ~~SPIVACK~~.

ILLUSTRATIONS CARRIED THE QUOTED CAPTIONS-

"WINCHELL, HOOVER AND DIMAGGIO"

"A GAY GET-TOGETHER AT THE GOOD OLD STORK"

"HOVER IN MIAMI"

"AT WW-S PLAYGROUND."

"G-MAN HOOVER POINTS A PLAYFUL TOMMY GUN AT WYWEIGHT CHAMPION
JIMMY BRADDOCK AS THEY WELCOMED IN THE NEW YEAR 1936 IN THE STORK CLUB.
IN THE ROOM AT THE TIME WAS NOTORIOUS GUNMAN AND EX-CON TERRY REILLY--
AND THIS AWFUL COINCIDENCE CAUSED J. EDGAR MUCH EMBARRASSMENT LATER.
WINCHELL WAS THERE, TOO. THE SENATE HEARD ALL ABOUT IT IN A DEBATE
ONCE.

"COLUMNIST WINCHELL AND G-MAN HOOVER"

"IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THEIR STORK CLUB ROMANCE."

END

NY R 1 WA ELR AT 11-27 AM

OK TKS LOT X

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. D. M. Ladd

FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: WALTER WINCHELL BROADCAST
DECEMBER 23, 1951

DATE: December 24, 1951

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/10/84 BY SP6 BTJ/AL
G.I.R.-6

Tolson
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Harbo
Rosen
Tracy
Belmont
Mohr
Tele. Room
Nease
Gandy

Walter Winchell in his broadcast on Sunday evening, December 23, 1951, included the following items of possible interest to the Bureau.

WINCHELL:

New York City: Rudolph ~~Valley~~, the counsel for the Kefauver Committee is expected to be the Government's star witness against Frank Costello at Costello's trial starting January 3rd.

COMMENT:

Costello is being tried for contempt of Congress. This is not a Bureau case.

WINCHELL:

Washington: General ~~Vandegrift~~ of the United States Marines is returning to active duty. He will be assigned to the Orient.

COMMENT:

None. This is for your information.

WINCHELL:

Syracuse, New York: 18 prominent citizens of Syracuse go on trial January 7th. They are charged with embezzling a local bank of two million dollars.

COMMENT:

This involves a Bureau case entitled [REDACTED] et al. Syracuse Trust Company, Syracuse, New York, Federal Reserve Act. The Bureau had completed the investigation and this case is ready for trial.

JND:ald

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SIDE FOR
CLASSIFICATION
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WINCHELL:

Washington, D. C.: Martha ~~Roundtree~~, the producer of Meet the Press, and the wealthy Baron D. ~~Shenkel~~ (phonetic) of the Swedish Embassy, Washington, have cancelled plans to wed.

COMMENT:

None. This is for your information.

WINCHELL:

Miami Beach: Martha ~~Ray~~, the star, and her husband and little daughter were saved in a dramatic rescue at sea early today after their fishing boat far out at sea started to sink.

COMMENT:

None, This is for your information.

WINCHELL:

Athens: Another ~~Nazi~~ war criminal went free today, a holiday present from the King of Greece. Nazi General ~~Alexander~~ ~~Andre~~ (phonetic) is free after serving less than four years of a life term for wartime atrocities and massacres at Crete.

COMMENT:

None. The above is for your information.

WINCHELL:

Vienna: The ~~four~~ American flyers cannot be bailed out before Christmas Day. Budapest banks will not reopen until Thursday. The American Legation does not have \$120,000.00 for their fines in the safe.

COMMENT:

None. This is for your information.

WINCHELL:

Hongkong: The Red Chinese have moved up heavy reinforcements to the French-Indo China border. They are the 43rd and 44th Chinese Communist Armies. All intelligence departments warn their top commands that a truce in Korea will mean all out attacks on Indo China.

COMMENT:

None. This is for your information.

WINCHELL:

The State Department is rocking with shakeups, dismissals and resignations. Assistant Secretary of State Miller and Perkins have been asked to be released.

COMMENT:

Mr. Roach, who serves in a liaison capacity with the State Department, advises that there has been recent newspaper comment concerning the resignations of these two individuals.

WINCHELL:

Another big Federal scandal will center around the terrific profits made by a certain Washington lady. She is the wife of a chief in the U. S. Intelligence. It concerns the sale of an oil tanker. An investment of only \$10,000 gave this lady a profit of 192,000 bucks after paying taxes on capital gains.

COMMENT:

The Bureau has an investigation on ~~Tanker Meechan~~, American Overseas Tanker Corporation, et al, Admiralty Matter." The New York Office is conducting the investigation of a civil action, wherein the Government is suing for forfeiture of that tanker on grounds the vessel although of American registry is actually owned by alien Chinese. The Overseas Tanker Corporation was organized by Congressman Joseph C. Casey of Massachusetts, and a number of prominent stockholders including Stettinius, Admiral Halsey, Casey and others. No woman is involved in this investigation. This organization bought and sold a number of

tankers; however, none can be identified with the facts as described by Winchell.

WINCHELL:

Moscow has not given the green light yet to George Keenan as out new Ambassador to Russia. Mr. Keenan is out top Russian authority.

COMMENT:

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b7C
WINCHELL:

The next big income tax scandal will come out of Brooklyn.

COMMENT:

This is not a Bureau case. Yet, it is believed that Winchell's statement concerns one [redacted] of the Brooklyn Internal Revenue Office, who was relieved of his duties some time ago.

WINCHELL:

The House Un-American Activities Committee will make new headlines next month with a new expose on Communists. The witnesses involved were quietly served several subpoenas all last week.

COMMENT:

The Bureau is aware of the fact the HCUA has been checking into the infiltration of labor in the Detroit area; also, that the HCUA has contemplated reconvening hearings on Communist infiltration in the motion picture industry some time next year. However, it is not possible to tell which hearing Winchell was making reference.

WINCHELL:

Attention - The American Medical Association: I have information regarding one of Hitler's former helpers. He is now trying to get into this country to accept a teaching post at one of our universities. This Nazi's name is Doctor Kurt ~~Blome~~. He was once Deputy Chief of Hitler's Chamber of Medicine, a disgrace to the medical profession. This Doctor Blome, ladies and gentlemen, was tried in Germany for torturing prisoners of war to death in Nazi concentration camps. He got away with murder, having been acquitted at Nuremberg four years ago. Dr. Blome's appalling record of atrocities may be found in the book entitled "Doctors of Infamy." Some of his American friends are now trying to get the State Department to grant him a visa to enter the United States. Please ask your doctor to protest to the State Department. His name is Doctor Kurt Blome.

COMMENT:

Search of Bureau files reveals no investigation has been conducted on Kurt Blome. [However, G-2 furnished the Bureau a copy of "Scientific Intelligence Review" dated March 29, 1946, which set out the following background information:] (S-1)(u)

*"Blome, K. (Prof., Dr.) (Interrogated) - He received a medical degree from Rostock University in 1921, and in 1931 joined the Nazi party. In 1934, he was called to Berlin by the Reichsarzte-fuhrer and at different times from 1934 to 1943 held a number of positions of an administrative nature. On April 30, 1943, an order from Goering appointed him director of cancer research. At the same time he also was selected to become Director of PW Research, and a member of the Plitzarheiter Committee." (S-1)(u)

WINCHELL:

The Civil Rights Congress is planning another march on Washington some day next month. A demonstration for the repeal of the Smith Act which jailed so many American Reds. This outfit was once cited by the U.S. Attorney General as subversive.

COMMENT:

The Bureau through its informants has received advance information that the Civil Rights Congress does plan to have a demonstration in Washington, D. C., in January, 1952. The Bureau has disseminated all information concerning these plans of the Civil Rights Congress to the interested Government agencies, as well as including this information in the Current Intelligence Summary.

WINCHELL:

Washington: Just how serious the Truman administration is about cleaning house can be judged from this: after one of the President's friends, William F. Willett, was caught using Government influence in the RFC, his job was abolished. But Mr. Willett's was secretly put on the Navy payroll as a housing specialist at about \$12,000 a year. This type of action explains why New York Judge Tom Murphy decided not to take the clean up job offered him by the President. Judge Murphy knew the White House gang wanted to use his mustache as a brush for a political white wash.

COMMENT:

None. This is for your information.

WINCHELL:

London: This week the Associated Press reported that high officials of the Allies were optimistic about avoiding the 3rd World War but the same story also noted that (quote) There are many ifs, and buts behind the belief an event could reverse the odds against a new war overnight. The same old double talk. The reason Russia is winning the 3rd World War is that too many of our high diplomats refuse to admit that it has started. Any sane person who reads the front pages every day cannot be optimistic about the possibility of world peace, especially American families whose sons didn't even make the list of prisoners.

COMMENT:

None. The above is for your information.

New York, N. Y.
January 25, 1952

Mr. Hoover:

WALTER WINCHELL

When recently being interviewed by this office in connection with an extortion letter received by him [redacted]

was very complimentary to the Bureau and told the following story:

He said that he had recently received a telephone call from an executive of Hadassah, a Jewish women's organization in Philadelphia, who stated that they understood that [redacted] had issued a statement critical of the FBI's activities in connection with the Negro bombings in Florida and [redacted] had stated that the FBI was not diligent and not doing a conscientious job in the Florida bombings.

[redacted] said he told this Hadassah executive he had not made any such statement and that as a matter of fact, the FBI was doing an outstanding job in Florida. He further told this executive he had been down in Florida and had observed the FBI's efforts and that they had been working night and day in a most conscientious manner.

EDWARD SCHEIDT

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DATE 4/8/91 BY SP1 GAC/mum

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New York, N. Y.
January 25, 1952

Mr. Hoover:

While being interviewed the other day in connection with an extortion letter received by him, [redacted] volunteered the following information regarding the Josephine Baker incident at the Stork Club:

[redacted] said that [redacted] is apparently worried over this incident. According to [redacted] got in touch with [redacted] and told him [redacted] would like to shake hands and forget the incident and also wanted to have [redacted] and Josephine Baker as his guests for the evening at the Stork Club. [redacted] stated he refused the offer [redacted] as long as there was no guarantee that no discrimination would be practiced in the future at the Stork Club.

[redacted] also said he had received a telephone call from Walter Winchell concerning the Josephine Baker incident and that Winchell talked to him over the telephone two hours and five minutes in a marathon tirade. According to [redacted] Winchell stated that for twenty-five years he had been a close friend of his and of the NAACP and a vigorous supporter of their policies but that now because of his support of the Stork Club's action in the Josephine Baker incident that he was being crucified by the NAACP and by newspapers like the New York Post. Winchell said that as a consequence if he (Winchell) were to go into Harlem now his blood would flow in the streets.

[redacted] stated that he told Winchell that it was Winchell's privilege to admit that he had made a mistake in the Stork Club incident. [redacted] stated that at the end of conversing, Winchell said "You probably have recorded this conversation and will crucify me further." [redacted] replied that there were no recording devices [redacted] and that he had never recorded any telephone conversation, but he said to Winchell, "I don't doubt though that you are recording the conversation for your own benefit." Winchell hesitated for a moment but did not deny [redacted] statement.

EDWARD SCHEIDT

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. D. M. Ladd

FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: WALTER WINCHELL BROADCAST
JANUARY 27, 1952

DATE: January 28, 1952

Walter Winchell in his broadcast on Sunday evening, January 27, 1952, included the following items of possible interest to the Bureau:

WINCHELL:

~~The Washington Ticker: Federal corridor opinion is that Alger Hiss will not get a new trial.~~

COMMENT:

As you are aware, a motion for a new trial has been made by Attorney Chester T. Lane for Alger Hiss on the basis of new evidence. A hearing on this motion has been set for February 4, 1952, before U. S. District Judge Henry W. Goddard in New York.

WINCHELL:

A Federal Judge awaiting for Senate confirmation now is in for great trouble because he is an intimate of U. S. Attorney General McGrath.

COMMENT:

This comment may refer to David N. Edelstein, formerly Assistant Attorney General in charge of Customs, New York, and appointed as a Federal Judge in November, 1951.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/10/84 BY SP8 BJS/bcl

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WINCHELL:

The U. S. Government will rest its year long case against the Communist Party very soon. If the Subversive Activities Control Board decides that the Government is right all known Communists over here will be put in jail.

COMMENT:

According to William A. Paisley, Attorney in the Criminal Division of the Department and in charge of the Government's case against the C. P. before the Subversive Activities Control Board, the Government's case will be completed shortly after March 1, 1952. Vito Marcantonio, Attorney for the C. P. has stated it will take him approximately two months for rebuttal testimony. If and when the Board rules in favor of the Government and no appeal is taken, members of the C. P. will have to register. But, under provisions of the law, a considerable period of time will have to elapse before the individual members can be prosecuted for failure to register.

WINCHELL:

A reporters report to the people: Attention Washington Post. A top secret around the White House since last September is this one. The President has cooperated very quietly with the authors of an upcoming book which will be called Mr President - The 32nd President of the U. S. The authors are William Hillman and Alfred Wagg (Waag). It will have a fantastic first printing 125,000 at \$5.00 a copy. Published by Farrar and Straus, "Mr. President" includes Mr. Truman's own diary, personal memoranda, letters and secret documents. He allowed Mr. Hillman to do this book because Hillman predicted his election in 1948. Co-author Wagg was allowed to hide in closets during the White House press conferences to take photographs with special electronic equipment.

COMMENT:

None. This is for your information.

WINCHELL:

San Francisco: Gerhardt ~~Stalberg~~ (Stalburg) the new German Consul General out here has a record just as smelly as his predecessor Captain Fritz Wiedemann. This Stalberg, ladies and gentlemen, was Herr Von Ribbentrop's chief lawyer. He wrote the opinions encouraging the Nazi plans for race extermination. How the U. S. State Department ever accepted

this assistant and Hitler's mass murders is another administration mystery. To the Department of State, your files will confirm me. German foreign office 2156 and 2157.

COMMENT:

None. This is for your information.

WINCHELL:

Washington Post: The U. S. Department of Justice has just flashed the green light for a Federal Grand Jury to investigate racketeering in New York. This new investigation against the underworld will be in full swing by next month.

COMMENT:

None. This is for your information.

WINCHELL:

San Francisco Call - Bulletin: A member of the Socialist Workers Party will enter the University of California to organize a campus group of pinko's. This Socialist Workers Party is listed as subversive by the Attorney General of the U. S.

COMMENT:

The Socialist Workers Party has recently had factional difficulties, one group breaking away from the parent group. Recruitment efforts have been intensified to compensate for this loss of membership including plans formed to recruit at the University of California, Berkeley, California, by sending a member of the Party to the University for recruitment purposes.

WINCHELL:

Los Angeles Examiner: California newspapers should do something about the new outfit out there which calls itself "America Plus." It has the support of the most notorious professional bigots on the west coast. A real menace.

COMMENT:

"America Plus" is a comparatively new so-called patriotic organization formed in California, with Jack B. Tenney, former head of the Tenney Committee (California State

Un-American Activities Committee) as one of the leaders. The "Daily Worker," east coast Communist newspaper, has referred to this organization as composed of reactionary individuals. At the request of the Department, an inquiry is being conducted concerning this organization.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. D. M. Ladd

FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: WALTER WINCHELL BROADCAST
JANUARY 20, 1952

DATE: January 21, 1952

Walter Winchell in his broadcast on Sunday evening, January 20, 1952, included the following items of possible interest to the Bureau:

WINCHELL:

New York City: The grand jury which indicted Frank Costello, Joe Adonis and Frank Erickson for contempt was called back into secret session on last Saturday.

COMMENT:

None. This is for your information.

WINCHELL:

Hollywood: The House Un-American Activities Committee has a big shock for many people in glamour town. Many of the witnesses will be recalled - new evidence.

COMMENT:

The Bureau is closely following and is aware that the HCUA intends to reopen hearings relative to Communist infiltration of the motion picture industry early this year.

WINCHELL:

Washington: Senator McCarran arrives next week to blast open the Amerasia and Institute of Pacific Relations investigation.

COMMENT:

As you are aware, the Bureau is in close liaison with the McCarran Committee who has advised they are going to resume hearings relative to the IPR this week. They have

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FEB 19 1952

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EX - 69

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FEB 13 1952
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DATE 9/10/84 BY SP8 BTJ/GCL

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indicated that they might call [REDACTED] and others who were implicated in the Amerasia case.

WINCHELL:

Washington: The FBI has just learned that the new leadership of the American Communist Party has been quietly taken over by Pettis Perry and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. Both are awaiting trial right now on charges of plotting to overthrow the Government of the United States.

COMMENT:

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn - member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, USA, and Pettis Perry - member of the Alternate National Committee, have for the past two and one-half months been issuing statements in their names on behalf of the Communist Party. These two individuals have assumed the position of spokesmen for the Communist Party. Both are under indictment in New York City for conspiring to violate the Smith Act and their trial is set for March 3, 1952.

WINCHELL:

The Washington Ticker: People close to the President report that he will stand on the record against any Congressional probe. He will refuse a bi-partisan clean up. In short, any prosecution by the administration will be made by the administration itself.

COMMENT:

None. This is for your information.

WINCHELL:

One of the tough and most powerful democratic senators will seek a public investigation of Max Lowenthal, a White House advisor. He was back of the plan to oust U. S. Attorney General McGrath and replace him with new dealer Justin Miller.

COMMENT:

None. This is for your information.

WINCHELL:

For the Washington Post: Mr. Wiggins. This is the sort of undercover news that makes my kind of job exciting. His name is Irving Velson, V E L S O N. He was mentioned in recent McCarran Committee reports. On January 15th last, this Irving Velson, sure he wasn't seen, spent several hours inside the Russian Embassy, Washington, D. C.

COMMENT:

The Bureau is familiar with Velson's testimony before the McCarran Committee last fall in connection with his activity in the American Committee to Survey Labor Conditions in Europe.

WINCHELL:

International News Service: The next big trial of leading Reds charged with plotting to overthrow the country starts at Los Angeles next Monday, the 28th. William Schneiderman, who won a decision in the higher courts in 1943, is among the 15.

COMMENT:

The trial of 15 west coast Communist leaders who were indicted for conspiring to violate the Smith Act, including William Schneiderman, is scheduled to begin January 28, 1952. These leaders were recently reindicted, however, at this time the trial is still scheduled for January 28th next.

WINCHELL:

Philadelphia Enquirer: Pennsylvania Communists will help cry the free press rally to be held at the Hotel Whitaker, Philadelphia, January 25th.

COMMENT:

A Committee for Freedom of the Press has been established in various cities throughout the country and rallies have been sponsored by this Committee for the purpose of gaining support for the "Daily Worker," east coast Communist newspaper, and other pro-Communist publications.

January 24, 1952

3:57

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. LADD
MR. NICHOLS

Irving Hoffman called me and stated that the Los Angeles Mirror, which is starting the syndicated Post series on Walter Winchell beginning next Monday, has announced, "Coming Monday - Unmasking Walter Winchell," and that the series is "fair, factual and fascinating reading about Walter Winchell." I told Hoffman that I thought such statements were a lot of literary license. Hoffman stated that in connection with the article he is writing he just wanted to check with me to make sure that we had nothing on the Terry Riley who has been mentioned in the Stork Club incident in the articles on Winchell. I told him that we had nothing on a Terry Riley who was being sought for impersonating a G-man and as long as he worded his article as the allegation had been worded that I thought he would be safe.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.
John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc - Mr. Nease

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DATE 9/10/84 BY SP8 BJS/ell

JEH:eff

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TIME 7:35
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Tracy _____
Harbo _____
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Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

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January 30, 1952

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DATE 9/10/84 BY SP8 BTJ/CL

11-1
GIR: 8

Mr. Walter Winchell
Suite 801
Roney-Plaza Hotel
Miami Beach, Florida

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

Dear Walter:

On his network program last night Fulton
Lewis, Jr. gave a very fine tribute to you and
I thought you might be interested in having the
exact statement he made concerning you and the
vicious attacks made upon you recently in the
New York Post.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Edgar

MAILED 8
JAN 30 1952
COMM - FBI

CT:DSS

Enclosure

CT:DSS

NOTE: The original text of Mr. Lewis' program was dictated
to Mr. McGuire by Mr. Lewis' secretary.

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